

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the following claim:

Claim 16 (amended) The process for the preparation of a pigment dispersion according to Claim 1, wherein Si, Ca, Mg, Fe, Cr and Ni ions incorporated in the liquid component of the pigment dispersion are each not higher than 100 ppm.

Please add the following new claims:

Claim 30 (new) A process for the preparation of a recording liquid comprising the steps of :

(i) providing a pigment dispersion prepared by the process of claim 1; and
(ii) subsequent to the preparation of said pigment dispersion, mixing the pigment dispersion with at least a solvent to form the recording liquid.

Claim 31 (new) The process as claimed in claim 30, wherein step (ii) comprises mixing the pigment dispersion with at least the solvent, a surfactant and water to form the recording liquid.

Claim 32 (new) The process as claimed in claim 31, wherein the recording liquid has a solid component comprising the surface treated pigment and resin and a liquid

component comprising the wetting agent, solvent, surfactant, polyvalent metal ions and water, the solid component of the recording liquid being present in an amount by weight that is less than an amount by weight of nonaqueous substituents in the liquid component of the recording liquid.

Claim 33 (new) The process as claimed in claim 32, wherein the pigment dispersion has (i) a liquid component comprising the wetting agent, water and polyvalent metal ions and (ii) a solid component comprising the surface treated pigment and the resin, said solid component being present in the pigment dispersion in an amount by weight that is greater than a total amount by weight of nonaqueous substituents in the liquid component.

Claim 34 (new) The process according to claim 33, wherein the pigment dispersion consists essentially of the surface treated pigment, the resin, the wetting agent, the polyvalent metal ions and water.

Claim 35 (new) The process according to claim 33, wherein the pigment dispersion consists essentially of the surface treated pigment, the resin, the wetting agent, a neutralizing agent, the polyvalent metal ions and water.

Claim 36 (new) The process according to claim 1, wherein the resin is added during said dispersion step.